

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PM-04 DODE-00 MC-02 NEA-10 EB-07 /063 W

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R 271035Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9514

S E C R E T WARSAW 0504

WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND
METHODS INVOLVED.

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, MASS, PL, XG

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL STUDY OF THIRD-WORLD, CONVENTIONAL-
ARMS-SUPPLY RESTRAINTS

REF STATE 011673, STATE 015027

1. SUMMARY. POLAND IS A SUPPLIER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT
TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA BUT INFORMATION ABOUT ARMA-
MENTS SALES OR TRANSFERS IS PUBLISHED HERE ONLY RARELY.
EMBASSY FILES CONTAIN VERY LITTLE QUESTION TO GUIDE
US IN RESPONDING TO THE QUESTIONS POSED IN
STATE 011673. END SUMMARY.

2. POLAND HAS SOLD INDIA 50 ISKRA JET TRAINERS. ADDI-
TIONALLY, POLAND PRODUCES AND EXPORTS SEVERAL LIGHT
GENERAL-AVIATION AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS WHICH COULD
HAVE MILITARY APPLICATION. WE DO NOT KNOW, HOWEVER,
WHETHER AND WHICH GENERAL-AVIATION SALES TO THIRD-WORLD
COUNTRIES ARE DESTINED FOR MILITARY APPLICATION.

3. EGYPT REPORTEDLY IS ATTEMPTING TO PROCURE 150 T-
54/55 TANKS MANUFACTURED IN POLAND. WE ARE UNCLEAR
WHETHER THE CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED. ACCORDING TO AN UNCON-
FIRMED RUMOR, LIBYA MAY HAVE PURCHASED SOME POLISH TANKS IN

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THE PAST.

4. POLAND'S SHIPYARDS AND FACTORIES PRODUCE A WIDE RANGE OF MILITARY HARDWARE AND MUNITIONS. SOME ITEMS MAY VERY WELL BE EXPORTED TO THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES BUT WE CANNOT CONFIRM OR DENY THIS ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AT HAND.

5. ECONOMIC DESIDERATA WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR POLAND IN SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IF HARD CURRENCIES ARE INVOLVED OR IF THE SALES WOULD FINANCE POLISH PURCHASES OF SCARCE RAW MATERIALS OR EQUIPMENT. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION WOULD BE THE POSSIBILITY OF GAINING INFLUENCE WHICH

COULD BE TRANSLATED INTO A PROFITABLE TRADING RELATIONSHIP.

6. IF THE SOVIET UN VN WISHED TO UTILIZE POLAND AS A FRONT FOR ARMS SALES OR TRANSFERS OF SOVIET-SUPPLIED WEAPONS, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT THE POLES COULD REFUSE. STATE 015027 MAY INDICATE POLISH INVOLVMENT IN SUPPLY OF WEAPONS OR MUNITIONS TO THE MPLA. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THIS REPORT HAS BEEN CORROBORATED.

7. TRANSFER OF WEAPONS ON A MODERATE SCALE TO NON-WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT POLAND'S MILITARY POSTURE. SOME WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN THE POLISH INVENTORY--FOR EXAMPLE, STOCKPILED MIG-15/17'S--WOULD PROBABLY BE RELEASED READILY IF, EXCHANGE IN POLAND COULD PROCURE MODERN EQUIPMENT.

8. POLISH GENERALS HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT POLAND IS NOT NOW FINANCIALLY CAPABLE OF PROCURING NEW WEAPONS SUCH AS THE MIG-23 OR THE SU-17/20. THEY HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO SHOW NO RESENTMENT ABOUT THIS AND THEIR ATTITUDE HAS BEEN ONE OF ACCEPTING WHAT IS ON HAND AND MAKING THE BEST USE OF IT. PURCHASES OF NEW AIRCRAFT AND TANKS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN PUT OFF.

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9. THE POLES HAVE LONG BEEN INTERESTED IN ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE. THEY WOULD LIKE TO REDIRECT THE SAVINGS IN EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER FOR DOMESTIC ECONOMIC-DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. POLAND IS, HOWEVER, OBLIGED TO SUPPORT SOVIET POLICY IN THE THIRD WORLD. THE POLES WOULD PREFER THAT THIS SUPPORT BE DIPLOMATIC IN NATURE. THEY WOULD DEFER TO THE SOVIETS ON ANY WESTERN INITIATIVE AIMED AT RESTRAINING ARMS TRANSFERS. ANY DECISION ABOUT RESTRICTION OF SALES OR DELIVERIES WOULD BE A POLITICAL DECISION TAKEN IN THE

FIRST INSTANCE BY THE SOVIETS.

DAVIES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, NONALIGNED NATIONS, ARMS PRODUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976WARSAW00504
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760031-0649
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760116/aaaaanj.j.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 11673, 76 STATE 15027
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENTAL STUDY OF THIRD-WORLD, CONVENTIONAL- ARMS-SUPPLY RESTRAINTS
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, MASS, PL, XG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006